

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SSC-01 HA-05
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R 102115Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 148

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6024

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINR, CI, DR, PA

SUBJECT: GOC DELEGATIONS TRAVEL TO PARAGUAY AND DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

1. ACCORDING TO SANTIAGO PRESS AUGUST 10, TWO GOC DELEGATIONS
-- HEADED BY HIGH-RANKING ARMY OFFICERS -- WILL ATTEND CEREMONIES
MARKING A NEW PRESIDENTIAL TERM FOR STROESSNER IN PARAGUAY AND
THE PRESIDENTIAL CHANGE OF COMMAND IN SANTO DOMINGO. DATES
FOR THE CEREMONIES IN ASUNCION ARE SAID TO BE AUGUST 13-16;
AND FOR SANTO DOMINGO, AUGUST 15-17. ARMY VICE COMMANDER
GENERAL CARLOS FORESTIER, ACCOMPANIED BY COLONEL ROBERTO SOTO
MACKENNEY, UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
WILL REPRESENT THE GOC IN THE PARAGUAYAN CEREMONIES; WHILE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS VICE MINISTER GENERAL ENRIQUE VALDES PUGA ATTENDS THE
SANTO DOMINGO EVENT, ACCOMPANIED BY AID JOSE MANUEL OVALLE.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE KEY OFFICIALS:

-- GENERAL CARLOS FORESTIER. AS ARMY VICE COMMANDER,
FORESTIER RUNS THE DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS OF THE ARMY, ALLOWING
PRESIDENT PINOCHET (AND ARMY COMMANDER) TO DEVOTE HIS TIME
TO HIS PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES. RUGGED AND FORCEFUL, FORESTIER
HAS OFTEN BEEN REFERRED TO AS A CRYPTO-NAZI. HE IS FIERCELY
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ANTI-MARXIST AND HAS IN THE PAST ATTRIBUTED THE HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATION CHARGES AGAINST CHILE TO COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA.

-- GENERAL ENRIQUE VALDES PUGA. AS THE VICE MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VALDES REPRESENTS THE ARMY "WATCH"OVER THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT THE MINISTER'S
DUTIES IN THE LATTER'S ABSENCE. THOUGH AN ADMIRER OF THE US
(HE HAS SERVED AS A STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR AT THE US

ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE), HE HAS LAMENTED WHAT HE CONSIDERS LACK OF US MILITARY OR MORAL BACKING FOR THE GOC.

-- COLONEL ROBERTO SOTO MACKENNEY IS THE NUMBER THREE OFFICIAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE JUNTA, WHICH PRIMARILY SERVES AS AN ADVISORY ORGAN TO PINOCHET ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS. WE HAVE HAD SOME INDICATION FROM THE PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT SOTO IS SOMEWHAT MORE OPEN AND "LIBERAL" THAN MANY OF THE MILITARY IN HIGH PLACES.
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